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Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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R 012050Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4201
INFO USMISSION USUN
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 2692

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, CI, US
SUBJECT: GOC EXTOLS MERITS OF US HUMAN RIGHTS CLARIFICATION

REF: STATE 055397

1. SANTIAGO PRESS ON MARCH 31 GAVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO RECTIFIED STATEMENT OF POSITION OF USDEL TO UNHRC, ON THE CHILE HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION IN GENEVA. THE GOC FONMINISTRY HAD RELEASED A TRANSLATION OF THE STATEMENT ON THE DAY BEFORE.

2. THE PRO-GOC "EL MERCURIO" SPORTED THE FRONT PAGE HEADLINE "U.S. RECOGNIZED CHILEAN HUMAN RIGHTS IMPROVEMENT" AND REPORTS AMBASSADOR POPPER'S MARCH 30 MEETING WITH FONMINISTER PATRICIA CARVAJAL, IN WHICH "MATTERS OF INTEREST TO BOTH COUNTRIES" WERE DISCUSSED (LEAVING THE IMPLICATION THAT THE MEETING IN PART RELATED TO THE STATEMENT).

3. INDEPENTEND "LA TERCERA", IN AN EDITORIAL ON APRIL 1, SAID THAT THE STATEMENT "REPRESENTED AN IMPORTANT MODIFICATION IN THE U.S. ATTITUDE" FROM "THE DISTANCE (CREATED) IN THE TRADITIONALLY CLOSE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS," SINCE PRESIDENT CARTER ASSUMED THE PRESIDENCY. THE EDITORIAL LINKED THE STATEMENT TO THE FAVORABLE
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CLIMATE DURING THE PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS BY NEW CHILEAN AMBASSADOR JORGE CAUAS ON MARCH 23, FINDING IN IT SIGNS THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WANTS TO EASE SOME OF THE STRAINS WHICH HAD APPEARED IN U.S./CHILE RELATIONS.

4. THE EDITORIAL FURTHER STATES THAT AT THE SAME TIME IT ISWORTH KEEPING IN MAND "THAT THE GOC HAS MAINTAINED AN "INDEPENDENT

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AND DIGNIFIED" ATTITUDE TOWARD THE "TUTORIAL"TENDENCIES OF THE U.S., AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT PERMIT THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP TO ENTER CHILE UNTIL THE GOC RECEIVES "OBJECTIVE GUARANTEES" THAT THE GROUP WILL PURSUE AN "IMPARTIAL AND APOLITICAL" EFFORT.

5. COMMENT: THE CHILEAN PRESS IS WELCOMING THE USDEL STATEMENT AS AN INDICATION THAT THE U.S. IS DRAWING BACK FROM THE MORE EXTREME ASPECTS OF ITS HUMAN RIGHTS POSITION. BY MAKING THE STATMENT PUBLIC, THE GOC MAY HAVE HOPED TO COUNTERACT THE UNDERTONE OF CRITICISIM AND CONCERN WHICH EXISTS BECAUSE OF CHILE'S NEAR ISOLATION AS A RESULT OF ITS HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS.
POPPER

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